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COUNTRY Germany REPORT NO. TOPIC Control of Interzonal Travelers at Border Crossing Points by Soviet and DDR
Officials25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X125X1 DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 March 1951REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

25X1

1. Soviet Zone border control agencies and agencies of the Soviet Occupation Authority charged with control of the southern border of Luringia differentiate their treatment of processing and interrogating border crossers, depending upon whether the latter are traveling illegally or are legal interzonal travelers and labor passport holders.
2. When crossing the border at the authorized border crossing stations, persons traveling on legal interzonal passports are processed by Volkspolizei officials who are stationed at the Soviet Zone border control stations and handle travelers under supervision of Soviet military personnel. They check passports, identity cards and, if necessary, residence permits; they invariably work in teams of three, one checking the identification papers and one the baggage while the third examines the identification papers in detail to detect forgeries. They have the wanted-persons register of the Soviet Zone of Germany available for ready reference. Passport holders whose identification papers and baggage are found to be in order, are usually permitted to proceed without undue delay.
3. Volkspolizei members engaged in such checks at the border check points were not observed to wear special insignia of any kind on their uniforms. The only book observed to have been used was the wanted-persons register of the Soviet Zone of Germany which by this time has become very comprehensive, in as much as it also included names of persons wanted on political charges.
4. The Soviet soldiers stationed at the border check have rarely been observed to concern themselves with the clearing of travelers. Only very rarely do Volkspolizei members interrogate interzonal travelers. They give the impression that the questions which they do ask, are asked only to satisfy their own curiosity rather than for the purpose of fulfilling an official function.
5. Interrogations are handled by SED personnel assigned to the individual border check points. These SED members usually rank as deputy company commanders, and never do they hold a rank lower than that of Polizeimeister. They are authorized to give orders even to higher ranking Volkspolizei members such as company commanders. Their principal business is interrogation and political surveillance of travelers.

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2

25X1



During periods of heavy traffic they frequently detain long-distance travelers for detailed subsequent interrogations; an even more frequent practice is to schedule interrogations of individual travelers for periods of light traffic.

6. Questions most frequently asked during interrogations include the following:
 - a. Are US troops stationed at your place of residence? In what barracks? In what strength?
 - b. With what types of tanks are they equipped and in what numbers?
 - c. What are the numerical troop unit designations?
 - d. Did any new US troops arrive lately?
 - e. There are Western forces being concentrated in the Western Zones of Germany?
 - f. What is the attitude of the population toward the rehabilitation of Western Germany?
 - g. What is the mood of the population?
 - h. How many unemployed live in your place of residence?
 - i. What is the mood of the unemployed?
7. Travelers from industrial areas of Western Germany are interrogated concerning the production of individual factories; of particular interest are machine and motor vehicle factories. The closing question frequently is: "Do you know any persons who are unsympathetic toward the Soviet Zone German Democratic Republic (DDR) or who are working against it?"
8. German-speaking Soviet military personnel wearing civilian clothes or Soviet officers in uniform accompanied by interpreters appear at irregular intervals at the check points in the Soviet Zone of Germany. They are believed to be members of the KGB. In a number of instances it was observed that interzonal travelers, particularly those from deep in the Western Zones were detained by the SSD until such time as the Soviet representatives arrived. Those detained were not interrogated by the SSD during the period of detention. The questions asked by the Soviet representatives were similar to those asked by the SSD except that normally they demanded more details.
9. At the check points at Sonneberg (P 51/J 40) and Frobstzella (P 51/J 52) it was observed that the Soviet personnel invariably came from Saalfeld (P 51/J 53) or Weimar. Soviet interrogators observed at the check point of GutsMuths apparently came from Plauen (P 51/K 12). KGB interrogators were not observed to refer to a book or list of any kind.
10. Of an essentially different nature are the measures employed by Soviet Zone border control agencies with respect to illegal border crossers, including persons who, for some reason or other, crossed the zonal border illegally, even though they were holders of interzonal passports. Immediately after being apprehended on the border by Volkspolizei personnel or Soviet patrols they are taken to the

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3

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25X1

appropriate Volkspolizei border sector headquarters where they are normally incarcerated for 24 hours. On the following day they are taken individually to the SSD official at the border sector headquarters and interrogated. The interrogation apparently is intended to segregate harmless border crossers with a reasonable degree of promptness. Released without further questioning are persons who live near the border or who had merely visited persons residing near the border in the Western Zones.

11. Persons traveling from greater distances or who have visited points of particular interest in Western Germany are detained and subjected individually to the second interrogation. It is known that in some cases persons were interrogated from five to ten times daily over a period of eight days. Questions asked are similar to those asked by the SSD at the check points. Police organizations in Western Germany names of officers or superiors and installations also have been points of interest in these interrogations.
12. Members of the Soviet IS also participate in these interrogations, by interrogating border crossers at the border sector headquarters, having them taken to their offices or conducting interrogations in the prisons themselves. It was observed that at times lists of names are placed before the persons interrogated and the latter are questioned as to whether they recognized individual names of persons from various places. On the other hand no book or diary of any kind was used in these interrogations.
13. Labor passport holders from the Soviet Zone of Germany have frequently been detained by the SSD at the check point because of trifling offenses detected in baggage inspections such as carrying provisions. Such persons were taken to the border sector headquarters by the Volkspolizei. At the border sector headquarters they were interrogated concerning conditions in the border area, US troop units and similar matters. In a number of cases labor passport holders were also taken to the MGB for interrogation. The questions asked there were similar to those asked by the SSD personnel.

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